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PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ELECTION RESULTS

— Best Practices for Maintaining PCI DSS Compliance and Third Party Security Assurance selected as priority issues by PCI community —

WAKEFIELD, Mass., November 28, 2012 —The PCI Security Standards Council (PCI SSC), a global, open industry standards body providing management of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), PIN Transaction Security (PTS) requirements and the Payment Application Data Security Standard (PA-DSS), today announced the results of the PCI Council election for Special Interest Groups (SIGS). Special Interest Groups (SIG) leverage the expertise of more than 650 PCI SSC Participating Organizations and provide a vehicle for incorporating their ideas and input into the work of the Council.

The PCI community, including merchants, financial institutions, service providers and associations, selected the following topics as the two key areas they would like Special Interest Groups to explore in 2013:

- Third Party Security Assurance
- Best Practices for Maintaining PCI DSS Compliance

The Council invites any members of the PCI SSC community interested in participating in one of these SIG projects to indicate their interest by filling out the web form on the PCI SSC website by December 15, 2012.

"The community had to choose between seven excellent proposals from their peers, so it was certainly not an easy decision," said Bob Russo, general manager, PCI SSC. "We were pleased that once again we had a strong number of Participating Organizations participate in the election to identify the areas that they most need guidance around when it comes to protecting their card data."

Special Interest Groups are a critical forum for industry participation in Council initiatives to increase payment card security. SIGs focus on providing recommendations to the Council, which often results in guidance for interpreting and implementing the PCI Standards. To date SIG participants have made significant contributions to Council resources on topics such as risk assessment, wireless security, EMV chip, point-to-point encryption and virtualized environments.

Before the end of the year Council SIG leads will convene each group to formalize the group charter and precise scope of work, with SIGs anticipated to start work in the beginning of 2013.

SIGs will be structured slightly differently in 2013 to allow for the Council's focus on updating and delivering the new version of the PCI DSS and PA-DSS and to balance resources accordingly. Both groups will commence in January, but the deliverables will be staggered, with the *Third Party Security Assurance* guidance published in 2013 and *Best Practices for Maintaining PCI DSS Compliance* to follow in 2014.

 "With interesting topics like these that so many of our stakeholders have experience with, various perspectives from different industries and geographies will be invaluable. We strongly encourage anyone with expertise or interest in these areas to get involved," said Jeremy King, European director, PCI Security Standards Council.

About the PCI Security Standards Council
The PCI Security Standards Council is an open global forum that is responsible for the development, management, education, and awareness of the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) and other standards that increase payment data security. Founded in 2006 by the major payment card brands American Express, Discover Financial Services, JCB International, MasterCard Worldwide and Visa Inc., the Council has over 600 Participating Organizations representing merchants, banks, processors and vendors worldwide. To learn more about playing a part in securing payment card data globally, please visit: pcisecuritystandards.org.

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